FORM NO. 51-4C
MAR 1952

(20)

50X1-HUM

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION FROM
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT
CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Economic - Electric power

HOW PUBLISHED Daily newspapers, book

WHERE PUBLISHED USSR

DATE PUBLISHED 1952-10 Jan 1954

LANGUAGE Russian

DATE OF INFORMATION 1952-1954

DATE DIST. 15 Feb 1954

NO. OF PAGES 3

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE As indicated

MINGECHAURSKAYA GES IN PARTIAL OPERATION

/Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources./

On 10 January 1954, it was reported that the first phase (two turbogenerators) of the Mingechaurskaya GES hydroelectric power station in the Azerbaydzhan SSR had gone into operation and was supplying current.(1) Completion of installation and testing of the first turbogenerator had been previously reported on 4 December 1953.(2)

The directives of the 19th Party Congress stipulate that the Mingechaurskaya GES must be completed during the fifth Five-Year Plan. Every effort is being made to complete the entire hydraulic center a year ahead of schedule. By the end of 1954, all six aggregates /turbogenerators/ are to be in operation.

High-voltage electric power transmission lines have already been strung from Mingechaur to the industrial centers of the republic -- Baku, Sumgait, Kirovabad, and Dashkesan.

At the end of 1953, the water in the reservoir was 56 meters deep at the dam and the reservoir was 65 kilometers long. In 1954 after the spring floods, the reservoir will be 75 kilometers long and 13 kilometers wide. Work on the dam is continuing with an eye to completion before spring so that the Mingechaur Reservoir will be able to hold all of the Kura River's flood waters.(1) I. Islam-Zade, chief of Mingechaurgesstroy, stated that the volume of the Mingechaur Reservoir, indicated on maps of the Transcaucasus as "Mingechaurskoye More," is 16 billion cubic meters.(3) The reservoir will cover hundreds of square kilometers of the Samukhskaya Dolina (valley).(4) More than 1,100 kolkhoz farms were relocated in spring 1953 before the reservoir was filled.

50X1-HUM

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL

STATE	NAVY	NSRB	DISTRIBUTION
ARMY	AIR	FBI	

More than 300 plants in the USSR have supplied the construction project with equipment, machinery, and construction materials. All of the union republics and many oblasts and autonomous republics have contributed.(3) Plants in Novorossiysk, Vol'sk, and Bryansk have supplied cement; metallurgical plants in the Urals, the Donbass, and Uzbekistan have shipped metal; the Kramatorsk Plant imeni Stalin and the Leningrad Plant imeni Stalin have provided turbines; and the Leningrad "Elektrosila" Plant supplied generators. Crane equipment arrived from Krasnoyarsk and Leningrad, dump cars from Kaliningrad. Plants in Minsk, Gor'kiy, Moscow, and Kutaisi shipped motor vehicles, while the machine building and ship repair enterprises of Baku supplied special cable products.(1)

Among the builders are representatives of 20 nationalities who came to the construction site from various parts of the country. Many of them helped to build the Tsimlyanskaya GES, Ust'-Kamenogorskaya GES, and other structures. Specialists and skilled workmen from other republics taught young Azerbaydzhanis skills not previously known in the republic.(3) Construction of the Mingechaur Hydraulic Center has produced thousands of highly skilled workers. An average of almost 1,200 persons a year have learned new professions or raised their qualifications in special courses.(1) Among those who have achieved special prominence are Nikolay Alekseyevich Lopatin and Avdey Avdeyevich Zvontsov,(3) chief and chief engineer, respectively, of the Mingechaur Office of the "Gidromekhanizatsiya" Trust, who, together with Platonov, chief engineer of the "Gidromekhanizatsiya" Trust, devised a method of building the earthen dam without using scaffolding. By building the dam without scaffolding, more than 10,000 cubic meters of lumber were saved, about 800 workers were freed for other work, and a great deal of time was saved.(1)

A large quarry supplies the construction needs of the dam.(3) In January 1954, there were 30 large excavators, including 22 walking excavators, in operation at the quarry (1), and 10-12 trains an hour were delivering gravel and sand from the quarry.(3) This is the first time in the history of Soviet hydraulic construction that a high-pressure earthen dam is being built, not from the type of earth normally used for such dams, but from sand and gravel. Reinforced concrete structures with a total volume of one million cubic meters are being built in the dam proper.(3)

Creation of the Mingechaur Hydraulic Center will make it possible to improve greatly the supply of inexpensive hydroelectric power for Azerbaydzhan SSR, industry to irrigate the Kura-Araksinskaya Plain, and to eliminate annual floods which result in heavy agricultural losses.(3) Four irrigation canals will originate at the reservoir. One of them, the Verkhne-Karabakhskiy Canal, will receive water from the reservoir via a tunnel through the mountain. This canal is scheduled to go into operation in 1954.(1) In 1952, it was stated that a network of large canals would irrigate 1.3 million hectares of new land in the Mil'skaya, Muganskaya, and Shirvanskaya steppes of the Kura-Araksinskaya Plain, and that the hydraulic center would improve conditions for navigation on the river, eliminate swamps, and relieve areas suffering from malaria.(5)

The Mingechaur Hydraulic Center is expected to provide inexpensive hydroelectric power for the petroleum industry, which is the leading branch of industry in the Azerbaydzhan SSR, and to open opportunities for electrification of agriculture. Electric traction will be used in railroad transportation. The Kura Steamship Line will operate the year around. There will be sufficient electric power for industrial and food enterprises to expand production not only in the principal cities of the republic but also in Nukha, Geokchay, Agdam, Yevlakh, Barda, Kasum-Ismailovskiy, and Stepanakert.

50X1-HUM

CONFIDENTIAL

The hydraulic center, named for the small ancient settlement of Mingechaur, is being built where the Kura, the main waterway of the Transcaucasus, pours into a canyon formed by the mountains of the Boz-Dag chain. Settlements for the builders of the hydraulic center were created on either bank of the river at the foot of Boz-Dag. Over 5 years ago they were combined into the new city of Mingechaur. The city has three intermediate schools, six kindergartens and three nurseries, a medical center, an FZO school, an outdoor motion picture theater, and a Palace of Culture.(1)

SOURCES

1. Moscow, Pravda, 10 Jan 54

2. Moscow, Gudok, 5 Dec 53

3. Moscow, Izvestiya, 10 Jan 54

4. Leningradskaya Pravda, 2 Jul 53

5. Moscow, Velikiye Stroyki Kommunizma (Great Construction Projects of Communism) by M.M. Davydov, 1952

- E N D -

50X1-HUM